



The Honorable Bill Nelson  
Hart Senate Office Building  
Room 716  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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Hospice Foundation of America writes to express support for S.347, the Advance Directives Improvement and Education Act of 2005, which will improve access to information about individuals' health care options and legal rights for care near the end of life; will promote advance care planning and decisionmaking so that individuals' wishes are known should they become unable to speak for themselves; and will engage health care providers in disseminating information about and assisting in the preparation of advance directives, which include living wills and durable powers of attorney for health care.

The case of Terri Schiavo has brought to the foreground an issue that families and caregivers have been grappling with since life-sustaining technology has been expanding. With advanced technology comes more choices; and families are presented with unprecedented ethical, moral, and emotional dilemmas.

This bill will give all Medicare beneficiaries a covered doctor visit for the purpose of discussing end-of-life care and will fund a public-education campaign to increase awareness of living wills among Americans of all ages.

Death is inevitable for everyone. That is why we need to make sure that all Americans know their rights and have access to the information they need to ensure a death of respect, dignity, and peace.

By authoring S.347, you offer this opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jack Gordon".

Jack Gordon  
Chairman  
Hospice Foundation of America

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CC:  
The Honorable Richard G. Lugar  
The Honorable Jay Rockefeller